

FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVES LIVES

I am Paul Chase with the Spokane Valley Fire Department.

I have been with Spokane Valley Fire Department for 28 years.

I have in the Fire Prevention Bureau for 22 years doing public education, code enforcement and fire investigations. I have investigated over 600 fires.

I am currently am an Assistant Fire Marshal.

Would you please require the installation of fire sprinklers in all new homes in Washington State?

The families of the following people ask you, NO, BEG YOU to do the right thing:

1. Shirley Jo Hanley
2. Martha L. Rodnick
3. Ralph James
4. Andrew Carter (4. and 5. died in the same fire.)
5. and his wife Zeida Carter
6. Marie Westenburg
7. Jeff Hines
8. four year old Bradley Wilson
9. Dvong Bich Phan (9. and 10. died in the same fire.)
10. Khva Ngnyen
11. Marlene Stach
12. Floyd E. Johnson
13. Nora F. Hayes
14. Helen Brant
15. Theodore K. Ray
16. Catherine E. Lamb
17. Jimmy G. Wilson
18. Linda Stannard (18. and 19. died in the same fire.)
19. Charlene Thompson
20. Norma Wenrick
21. Sandra Personett

In the past 23 years in the Spokane Valley, 21 people have needlessly died in house fires. They died in homes, trailer homes, apartments and retirement homes...that DID NOT HAVE fire sprinklers. That made local news but not national news...WHY... because they died in ones and twos. The nation did not notice.

In the 1990's Washington State, through a Fire Code change, started requiring fire sprinklers in hotels, motels, apartments, boarding homes and schools. We are now reaping the benefit of that courageous decision. It was the right decision.

The Spokane Valley Fire Department has had 7 fire sprinkler saves in the past 9 years. They occurred in hotels, apartments and even one boarding home. Six of the 7 started on the kitchen stove. The 7th fire was in a boarding home. It was arson. Those 7 fires did not make national news... the arson fire barely made local news. The fact that fire sprinklers save lives, did not make the news.

Nobody noticed...BECAUSE the fire sprinklers did just what they are supposed to do...save lives and protect property.

I don't have pictures of all of those fires. But let me paint 7 word pictures of those 7 fires.

1. In each case, a single fire sprinkler controlled the fire until the fire department arrived.
2. No civilians died.
3. No firefighters died.
4. No one got injured.
5. No one even got smoke inhalation...the water spray from the fire sprinklers scrubbed the air clean.
6. The fire sprinklers kept the fires cool enough to survive.
7. In each case fire and water damage was minimal. Two of the fires did not even make an insurance claim because they were under their \$5000 deductible.

Are these pictures clear enough?

In the past 9 years we have seen fire sprinklers saved lives 7 times because Washington State did the right thing in requiring fire sprinklers in hotels, motels, apartments, boarding homes and schools.

Please do the right thing AGAIN.

Please do the courageous thing.

Please require fire sprinklers in all new homes.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Paul Chase